REMARKS

Applicant's representative (Matthew H. Szalach, Reg. No. 53,665) would like to thank Examiner Chiem for the courtesies extended during an interview on April 18, 2006. During the interview, Applicant's representative presented arguments to the Examiner that Yoshii (U.S. Patent No. 6,147,724) fails to teach a wiring circuit board disposed on an inclined surface of a light-guide plate and also fails to teach an elastically deformable connector terminal mounted on a wiring circuit board. The Examiner was receptive to these arguments, and suggested specifically outlining such differences between the claimed invention and Yoshii when responding to the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant has outlined the differences between Yoshii and the claimed invention below, and respectfully submits that the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 13, 16, 20, and 21 are now pending in the application. By this paper, Claims 1 and 21 have been amended. The basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 and 11, 13, 16, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshii et al. (U.S. Pat. No.6,147,724).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 recites an electronic instrument including an electro-optical panel having an electro-optical material, a light-guide plate illuminating the electro-optical panel, a wiring circuit board disposed in the rear of the light-guide plate, a conductive terminal disposed on the wiring circuit board, a circuit board arranged substantially in parallel with a surface of the electro-optical panel, and a connector mounted on the circuit board and having an elastically deformable compression-type connector terminal. The thickness of the light-guide plate gradually decreases in a predetermined direction to form an inclined surface with the wiring circuit board disposed on the inclined surface. The connector is disposed between the wiring circuit board and the circuit board, is adjustable in a predetermined direction on the circuit board, and is brought into conductive contact with the terminal on the wiring circuit board.

Independent Claim 21 recites an electronic instrument including an electro-optical panel having an electro-optical material, a holding member for holding the electro-optical panel, a light-guide plate illuminating the electro-optical panel, a circuit board arranged substantially in parallel to the panel surface, a conductive terminal disposed on the circuit board, a wiring circuit board disposed in the rear of the light-guide plate, and a connector mounted on the wiring circuit board and having an elastically deformable compression-type connector terminal. The thickness of the light-

guide plate gradually decreases in a predetermined direction to form an inclined surface with the wiring circuit board disposed on the inclined surface. The connector is disposed between the wiring circuit board and the circuit board, is adjustable in the predetermined direction of the wiring circuit board, and is brought into conductive contact with the terminal on the circuit board.

In this manner, the present invention discloses an electro-optical device (100) having a circuit board (200) and a light-guide plate (132). The light-guide plate (132) includes an inclined surface that gradually decreases in a predetermined direction along the circuit board (200) and includes a wiring circuit board (122) disposed on a bottom surface thereof. The wiring circuit board (122) is connected to the circuit board (200) via a connector (210) and an elastically deformable compression-type connector terminal (211). With this configuration, the connector (210) is disposed between the wiring circuit board (122) and the circuit board (200). See Figure 1. Furthermore, because the connector terminal (211) is an "elastically deformable compression-type" connector terminal, the connector terminal (211) is adjustable in the predetermined direction to adjust a contact pressure between the wiring circuit board (122) and the circuit board (200).

Yoshii fails to teach a light-guide plate having a thickness that gradually decreases in a predetermined direction to form an inclined surface having a wiring circuit board disposed on the inclined surface. Rather, Yoshii teaches a video signal line-side flexible printed circuit board (FPC2) connected to a circuit board (IC1). See Yoshii at Figure 4. The Examiner contends that Yoshii also teaches a light-guide plate (GLB) having a thickness that gradually decreases in a predetermined direction to form

an inclined surface. See the Office Action mailed February 28, 2006 at Page 4, citing Yoshii at Figure 26B. While the light-guide plate shown at Figure 26B of Yoshii appears to be formed at an angle, a wiring circuit board is not disposed on the inclined surface of the light-guide plate (GLB).

Yoshii fails to teach a connector disposed between a wiring circuit board and a circuit board. Rather, Yoshii teaches an Anistropic conductive file (ACF2) located to the side of a wiring circuit board (FPC2). See Yoshii at Figures 34 and 35. Because the Anistropic conductive layer of Yoshii is located to the side of the wiring circuit board, Yoshii fails to teach a connector disposed *between* a wiring circuit board and a circuit board.

In addition to the foregoing, Yoshii fails to teach or suggest an elastically deformable compression-type connector. Therefore, Yoshii also fails to teach or suggest such an elastically deformable compression-type connector disposed between a wiring circuit board and a circuit board that is adjustable in a predetermined direction on the circuit board and is brought into conductive contact with a terminal on the wiring circuit board.

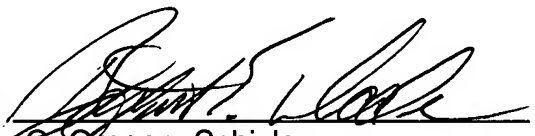
In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Yoshii fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 21, as well as Claims 2, 11, 13, 16, and 20, respectively dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 25, 2006

By: 

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